(c) whether it is a fact that SSI are not reported readly to face outside competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been no derservation of any item reerved for manufacture in the small scale industries sector after February, 1999. The recommendations of the Study Group headed by Dr. S.P. Gupta are under the consideration of the Group of Ministers.

(c) No, Sir. As per their past performance, they have generally fared well.

Exports by SSI

†3395. DR.D.MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports are made from the country by the Small Scale Sector;

(b) if so, the exports made in the year 1997-98,1998-99 and 1999-2000 alongwith their value in terms of rupee as well as Dollar separately; and

(c) the names of top ten items exported by them during the above said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the latest data compiled, the exports made from the small scale sector are as under:—

Year	Rs. i^ crores	US$(billion)
1997-1998	44442.18	11.89
1998-1999	48979.23	11.66
1999-2000 (Estimated)	53975.11	11.99

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The top 10 items exported from SSI sector in terms of value are Readymade Garments, Processed Food, Engineering Goods, Finished Leather and Leather Products, Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetic Products, Cashew Kernel and Cashew Nut Shell Liquid, Woollen Garments and Knitwear, Spices, Marine Products and Plastic Products.

Restructuring of Khadi Commission

† 3396. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRIKAPILSIBAL:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the job of obtaining the suggestions for restructuring of Khadi Commission had been entrusted to a foreign company;

(b) if so, what was the name of that company alongwith the amount paid as renumeration to it for the said job;

(c) whether the company has since submitted its suggestions to the Government; and

(d) if so, what are the details of those suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) A restructuring study has been assigned to M/s Arther Andersen India (Pvt.) Limited for a fee of Rs. 45 lakhs. The Consultants are expected to submit their recommendations by the end of October, 2000.

Assistance to Rural Industries in TN

3397. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any initiative has been taken by the Ministry to set up institutions to provide total assistance to the rural industries of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.